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are no more effective means to obtain such an understanding than by multiplying the means of communication between the two powers. Increasingly from now on it will be necessary that each of these peoples shall know the current views, ideas, news, in all the varying aspects

of their common life. We are told that five million dollars will build three cables. At this rate the price of one battleship will build twenty-four such cables. In any event, additional cables are needed imperatively. Business, politics, peace, depend upon it.

## THE CONFERENCE MOVES FORWARD

At this writing, a month after the Conference on the Limitation of Armament convened, one action of far-reaching importance to the future order of the world has been taken, and others of vast importance impend and are expected momentarily to be consummated.

That which is done is the writing and signing of a treaty between the United States, Great Britain, France, and Japan, under which the possessions and dominions of each in the Pacific are to be respected, and in case of dispute conference is to be held; also, in case of danger from an outside source, the parties to the treaty are to confer as to what action shall be taken. This treaty not only creates an agency for peace in the Pacific, but under its terms the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is to be dissolved—an end earnestly sought by the American Government and apparently favored by the American people.

Of the matters impending, the naval ratio feature of the Hughes plan, linked with the basic question of tonnage of capital ships, overshadows. Every indication from official circles seems to assure the adoption of the ratio of 5-5-3 for the United States, Great Britain, and Japan, proposed by Secretary Hughes. The capital ship tonnage allowed each nation may be increased slightly, in order to meet a plea from the Japanese that they be allowed to keep their great new ship, the *Mutsu*, and in order to adjust the American and British tonnage proportionately.

When the agreement is formally reached on the 5-5-3 ratio for capital ship tonnage, the Conference will pass to consideration of submarines, which the British want abolished, to decision as to details respecting auxiliary ships, and to settlement of the size and character of the French and Italian navies. The submarine question and the question as to French and Italian navies may develop perplexities, but there is no thought among the delegates to the Conference that they will endanger in the least the success of the gathering.

Another matter upon which agreement seems impending is Shantung. The indications are strong that Japan will agree to recede from her demand for half ownership in the railroad that crosses Shantung, upon payment from China for the interest. It is possible that an international com-

mission will be named to go to Shantung and study the books of the railroad and to examine other economic interests to determine what will be a fair valuation.

In the broad Chinese situation, the Conference has adopted for its guidance and as a policy of the powers in the future four rules formulated by Elihu Root. First adopted in committee and later by the Conference in open session on December 10, they pledge the powers in the Conference to respect Chinese national integrity, to help China to a stable government, to maintain the open door, and not to take advantage of existing conditions to seek special privileges. To them has been added a resolution, formulated by Sir Auckland Geddes, pledging the powers to make no treaty that would impair the force of the Root rules.

Proceeding under the Root rules and in accordance with the agenda, and taking into consideration ten points offered by the Chinese delegation as a chart for treatment of the situation in China, the Committee on Pacific and Far Eastern Affairs has adopted resolutions recognizing the neutrality of China in any future wars, has agreed to end foreign-controlled post-offices in China, and has provided for an international commission to study the extraterritoriality question. It is now dealing with Chinese customs rates, military and other establishments maintained without treaty sanction, and leases. It is probable that before the Conference concludes a treaty of the powers will be framed for the government of the powers in their relations to China.

Technically outside the Conference, but actually a part of its work, the issue over the island of Yap has been settled during the sessions of the Conference, the announcement having been made on December 12. American claims as to cable rights are guaranteed. The convention will go to the Senate. The Conference is scheduled to deal shortly with the matter of Pacific fortifications, and, without great hope of success, to act respecting land armament.

Following, under separate heads, will be found detailed information regarding debates and action of the committees and the Conference on the naval question, the land armament, the Far East issues and the Four Power Treaty. Similar information as to subsequent debates and action will be given in the next number.

## THE NAVAL QUESTION

For virtually one month the Hughes plan has been before the Committee on Limitation of Armaments, which really has been the entire membership of the Conference, as far as armament is concerned. The committee of technical naval advisers soon finished examination of the facts as to the existing navies, and found that those facts show the exist-

ing ratio between the American, British, and Japanese navies to be 5-5-3, unless ships under construction be eliminated. The Japanese argued for 10-10-7.

Inasmuch as ships under construction admittedly are part of any naval strength, the report of the technical men substantiates Mr. Hughes' use of 5-5-3 as the ratio to obtain.